

California Bureau of Automotive Repair Smog Check Technician Licensing Examination

CANDIDATE HANDBOOK



**For: Basic Area (Test and Repair) Technician
Advanced Emission (Test and Repair) Technician**

For Examinations February 1, 2000 and Later

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

All questions about examination administration
should be directed to:

Experior Assessments
3600 American River Drive, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95864
TDD User: 800-790-3926
Voice: 800-897-2241

Questions about license applications or license issuance
should be directed to:

Department of Consumer Affairs
Bureau of Automotive Repair
Division of Licensing
P.O. Box 989001
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9001
800-952-5210 or 916-322-4000

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SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The California Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Automotive Repair (DCA/BAR) developed this handbook to help you prepare for the Smog Check Technician Licensing Examination. The purpose of the examination is to determine the basic qualifications of the applicant. We strongly recommend that you study every section carefully, well in advance of the examination date.

Licensed Smog Check Technicians may conduct both initial and after-repair certification tests on vehicles included in the Smog Check Program. They may also perform vehicle emission control system adjustments and repairs to failed vehicles at licensed Test and Repair stations.

Expiration of License

Technicians must pass an examination every other year to remain licensed. The license expiration dates are adjusted so that the licenses expire in the month of the technician's birthday. Therefore, licenses are valid for 13 to 24 months, depending upon the technician's birth month and the month in which the technician passes the licensing examination. This

process is fully explained in California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 3340.29 (e):

"A technician's license shall expire at the end of the month in which the second birthday of the technician occurs after the date of issuance of the license. Initial license expiration dates are calculated from the date DCA/BAR is notified that an applicant passed the licensing examination. Once a license has been issued that expires in the birth month, all subsequent licenses will expire at the end of the month, two years later. Withholding a license for enforcement purposes, or issuance of a temporary license due to family support obligations, does not change the expiration date as calculated above."

This handbook will not give you all the knowledge that you need. It is intended to help you decide what training and/or skills you may need to pass the exam, and provide an idea of what the actual test is like.

The handbook gives recommendations for studying, information on the format of the examination, a general description of the examination and examples of the kinds of test items you will encounter.

SECTION II: BAR SMOG CHECK TECHNICIAN COMPETENCY STATEMENT

First and foremost, a Smog Check Technician is a professional, working as a partner with government and the public in cleaning up California's air. To meet this need, a Smog Check Technician must be able to do each of the following:

1. Understand the basic functions of vehicle engines and emission controls.
2. Determine the need for inspection, type of inspection, and correct inspection procedures.
3. Identify vehicles that must be inspected by Referee stations, and give the consumer correct and adequate information about the Referee process.
4. Identify each vehicle by year, make, model, and certification status.
5. Understand and use inspection, diagnostic, and repair reference materials to determine required emission control equipment and vacuum hose routing.
6. Determine what emission control equipment is required, evaluate the actual condition of the required equipment, and correctly report the condition.
7. Operate emission test equipment and diagnostic equipment.
8. Perform complete and accurate functional and emission tests on the wide variety of vehicles in the Smog Check Program.
9. Review and interpret emission test results and explain them to consumers.
10. Evaluate emission test results and diagnostic information to determine most likely cause(s) of failure.
11. Diagnose and correct emission problems effectively, within applicable cost limits.
12. Conduct after-repair tests properly.
13. Know and follow the requirements for written estimates, customer authorization, and record keeping.
14. Explain to a motorist why inspections and repairs are necessary, as well as why vehicles are equipped with emission controls.

SECTION III: PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

Where to Begin

The BAR Smog Check Technician Licensing Examination evaluates a candidate's knowledge of Smog Check Program inspection requirements, as well as diagnosis, repair and retest of failed vehicles. Examination questions are based on the Examination Outline in Section V. Review this outline carefully and plan an appropriate schedule of study or review.

How the Examination is Developed

The examination is developed by licensed Smog Check Technicians who work within guidelines established by DCA/BAR for the licensing of many regulated trades and professions. Every attempt is made to assure that the questions fairly and reasonably measure the competencies listed in the Examination Plan in Section V.

First, the questions are written in a structured setting by technicians, and are edited and reviewed by another group of technicians. This assures that the questions are job-related and written in terms used by practicing technicians. This process provides for an impartial review of the questions to verify their accuracy and technical quality.

Before being used in a licensing exam, the questions are field-tested, an analysis is performed, and a series of computer-generated statistics is compiled on each question. These statistics assist BAR in determining if a question is a fair measure of knowledge.

Then, the passing score is determined by another group of licensed technicians, who evaluate the difficulty of each question, as it relates to entry-level practice. These evaluations are analyzed, and the passing score is determined, with an acceptable level of confidence that the examination separates the qualified candidates from the non-qualified candidates. Different forms of the examination may have different passing scores.

License Classes

All applicants for a Smog Check Technician license must use the most current application form (Form #T-6, REV. 4/99).

Regulations establish three classes of licenses: Intern, Basic, and Advanced. Detailed descriptions and requirements are contained in the charts on pages 4 to 6 of this handbook.

Technicians employed to perform inspections, repairs, and certifications at stations in the Enhanced Program areas must obtain an Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License. Technicians may consult BAR's ZIP code list to determine if they are in a Basic or Enhanced area. A ZIP code list is available from BAR by calling 800-952-5210, or it may be viewed on BAR's Web site at www.smogcheck.ca.gov.

Technicians employed in a Basic area may opt for the Basic or Advanced Emission Specialist Technician license at the time of

initial application. Advanced licensees may perform inspections and repairs to failed vehicles at licensed stations in California.

Trade Experience

Significant portions of the examination relate directly to actual situations. Therefore, experience you acquire performing tune-up, emission control, and related diagnostic and repair work increases the likelihood that you will answer these questions correctly.

Training

Smog Check Technicians shall have the option to do hands-on work in lieu of written work in order to successfully complete the department certified training and retraining courses or may complete comparable military training as documented by submission of Verification of Military Experience and Training (V-MET) records in lieu of meeting any other training-related requirements.

Review Courses and Publications

Some persons may offer review or preparation courses or publications. We have no information to indicate that applicants who use these sources have a higher pass rate than those who do not. Courses other than BAR-certified Clean Air Car (or citation) courses are **not** associated with BAR, nor do course sponsors have legal access to BAR's examination materials. No publishers have legal access to BAR's examination materials. We make every effort to ensure that the contents of our examinations remain confidential and that the questions are changed frequently.

Resources

A. INFORMATION ON PERFORMING INSPECTIONS

Review of BAR training materials is helpful. They include the Student Materials Packet for the BAR-certified Clean Air Car Course, the current edition of the Smog Check Inspection Manual, the BAR "Write It Right" booklet and videos, as well as Laws and Regulations Relating to Licensed Smog Check Stations.

Some of these materials may be purchased from BAR field offices, or by mail from the Department of Consumer Affairs. The Student Materials Packet is available only by mail. See the Reference List on the following page.

B. INFORMATION ON DIAGNOSIS AND REPAIR

A number of commercial publications (as well as training classes) offer detailed diagnostic and repair information. They may be obtained from public and college libraries, bookstores, test equipment manufacturers' courses (including diagrams and illustrations), parts manufacturers' courses, independent schools, and vehicle manufacturers' schools.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Below is a list of the reference materials that were used when the subject matter experts wrote examination questions. These references may be of use to you when preparing to take the examination. BAR does not endorse these publications other than to disclose that they were used in the examination development process.

(Available at libraries or from publishers)

Listed below are reference materials used by licensed Smog Check Technicians when writing questions for the Unlimited Smog Check Technician licensing examination. These books are available at some public libraries, some community college libraries and bookstores, or can be ordered by any bookstore. When available, a telephone number for the publisher is included.

Also used as references when developing the examination are standard emission control diagnostic and repair manuals, as each licensed Smog Check Test and Repair Station is required to maintain.

Duffy, James E. Auto Electricity, Electronics, Computers. South Holland, Illinois; Goodheart-Willcox Co., Inc. 1989
Tel. 708-333-7200

ISBN# 0-87006-694-3

Duffy, James E., and Smith, Howard Bud Auto Fuel and Emission Control Systems. South Holland, Illinois; Goodheart-Willcox Co., Inc. 1992 Tel. 708-333-7200

ISBN# 0-87006-932-2

Layne, Ken Automobile Electronics and Basic Electrical Systems, Volume 1: Text. New York; John Wiley & Sons. 1990
Tel. 800-223-1360

ISBN# 0-471-61763-6

Layne, Ken Automobile Electronics and Basic Electrical Systems, Volume 2: Practice Manual. New York; John Wiley & Sons. 1990 Tel. 800-223-1360

ISBN# 0-471-61762-8

Layne, Ken Automotive Engine Performance. Second Edition. Tuneup, Testing, and Service. Volume 1: Text. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey; Regents/Prentice Hall Tel. 800-223-1360

ISBN# 0-413-059775-9

Layne, Ken Automotive Engine Performance. Second Edition. Tuneup, Testing, and Service. Volume 2: Practice Manual. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey; Regents/Prentice Hall
Tel. 800-223-1360

ISBN# 0-413-059775-9

Probst, Charles O. Bosch Fuel Injection & Engine Management. Cambridge, Massachusetts; Robert Bentley, Inc. 1989

Tel. 800-423-4595

ISBN# 0-8736-0300-5

(Available for purchase from BAR)

The following BAR publications have been used as references when writing questions for the Unlimited Smog Check Technician licensing examination. They are available from the Bureau of Automotive Repair as a student set, known as the Clean Air Car Course Student Materials Set, for \$50. The individual prices are listed with each item.

Clean Air Car Course Student Workbook.
Bureau of Automotive Repair, 1993. \$10.

Clean Air Car Course Training Manual.
Bureau of Automotive Repair, 1992. \$24.

Smog Check Inspection Manual.
Bureau of Automotive Repair, 1996. \$12.

Write It Right Booklet.
Bureau of Automotive Repair, 1st copy free.

Laws and Regulations Relating to Automotive Repair Dealers and Smog Check Stations. Bureau of Automotive Repair, 1996, 1st copy free.

Car Care for Healthy Air video.
Bureau of Automotive Repair, \$10.

To purchase the *Clean Air Car Course Student Materials Set*, **send a check or money order for \$50** (includes tax and shipping charges) to:

Department of Consumer Affairs
Attention: Cashiers
400 "R" Street, Suite 2020
Sacramento, CA 95814-6200

INTERN TECHNICIAN LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

****THIS LICENSE DOES NOT REQUIRE AN EXAMINATION****

Use/Expiration	Duties
<p>The license is valid for all areas of the state.</p> <p>The license expires in two years, can only be issued once and is nonrenewable.</p>	<p>The license allows an individual, under the direction of a licensed supervising technician, to perform repairs; or adjustments to the emission control systems on vehicles subject to the Smog Check Program.</p>
Education/Experience	
<p>To qualify for the Intern Technician license, the applicant must provide proof of successful completion of BAR's Basic or Advanced Clean Air Car Course. To qualify for the Clean Air Car Course, you must have one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. one year of automotive experience in the engine performance area; OR 2. completion of 9 semester units, or 13 quarter units, or 180 hours of engine performance related automotive training courses from a state accredited or recognized college, public school or trade school; OR 3. six months of automotive experience in the engine performance area and 5 semester units or 7 quarter units or 90 hours of engine performance related automotive training course from a state accredited or recognized college, public school or trade school; OR 4. possession of an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree in Automotive Technology from a state accredited or recognized college, public school or trade school; OR 5. possession of a certificate in automotive technology from a state accredited or recognized college, public school or trade school. Coursework must be a minimum of 360 hours in the engine performance area. 	

BASIC AREA TECHNICIAN LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

THIS LICENSE REQUIRES AN EXAMINATION

Use	Duties	Required Certifications
The license is valid in the Basic or Change of Ownership Program areas of the state.	The license allows an individual to inspect, diagnose, adjust, repair and certify the emissions control systems on vehicles subject to the Basic Area Smog Check Program in attainment areas.	<p>The applicant must provide proof of one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certification (or a passing score) from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence in the certification categories of Electrical/Electronic Systems (A6) and Engine Performance (A8); OR 2. Completion of training course(s) approved by BAR as an alternative to the requirements in item 1, above.
Education/Experience		
<p>To qualify to take the examination, the applicant must provide proof of one of the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. four years of verifiable experience in the vehicle engine performance area; OR 2. possession of an Intern Technician license and one year of verifiable experience in the vehicle engine performance area after obtaining the Intern Technician license; OR 3. possession of an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree in Automotive Technology from a state accredited or recognized college, public school or trade school and successful completion of BAR's Basic or Advanced Clean Air Car Course; OR 4. possession of a certificate in Automotive Technology from a state accredited or recognized college, public school or trade school with a minimum of 360 hours of coursework in the engine performance area, and successful completion of BAR's Basic or Advanced Clean Air Car Course; OR 5. possession of a valid Smog Check Technician's license other than an Intern Technician license. 		
Update Training		
<p>Beginning February 1, 2001, an applicant for an initial or renewal Basic license must provide proof of successful completion of BAR-certified update training courses. Update training courses provide training on new automotive technology that affects emission tests and/or repairs. Update training courses may be up to 20 hours.</p>		
Locating Providers of Alternative & Update Training		
<p>Information regarding alternative courses and update training courses is available through BAR's toll-free number, 800-952-5210, or Internet site at www.smogcheck.ca.gov.</p>		

ADVANCED EMISSION SPECIALIST TECHNICIAN LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

THIS LICENSE REQUIRES AN EXAMINATION

Use	Duties	Required Certification
The license is valid for all areas within the state.	The license allows an individual to inspect, diagnose, adjust, repair and certify the emission control systems on vehicles subject to the Enhanced Area Smog Check Program.	<p>The applicant must provide proof of one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certification (or a passing score) from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence in their certification categories of Electrical/Electronic Systems (A6), Engine Performance (A8), and Advanced Engine Performance Specialist (L1); OR 2. Completion of a training course(s) by BAR as an alternative to the requirements in item 1, above.
Education/Experience		
<p>To qualify to take the examination, the applicant must provide proof of one of the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. four years of verifiable experience in the vehicle engine performance area; OR 2. successful completion of BAR's Advanced Clean Air Car Course, possession of a current Intern Technician license and one year of verifiable experience in the vehicle engine performance area completed after obtaining the Intern Technician license; OR 3. successful completion of BAR's Advanced Clean Air Car Course and possession of an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree in Automotive Technology from a state accredited or recognized college, public school or trade school; OR 4. successful completion of BAR's Advanced Clean Air Car Course and possession of a certificate in automotive technology from a state accredited or recognized college, public school or trade school with a minimum of 360 hours of coursework in the engine performance area; OR 5. possession of a valid Smog Check Technician's license other than an Intern Technician license. 		
Update Training		
<p>As of July 1, 1998, an applicant for an initial or renewal license must provide proof of successful completion of BAR-certified update training courses. Update training courses provide training on new automotive technology that affects emission tests and/or repairs. Update training courses may be up to 20 hours.</p>		
8-Hour BAR-97 Transition Class		
<p>This class is not required as a prerequisite to take the licensing examination. However, all technicians working in Enhanced areas must complete and pass the 8-hour BAR-97 Transition Class before they are granted access to the BAR-97 Emissions Inspection System. These classes are provided by various community colleges, adult educational programs or private vendors such as equipment manufacturers.</p>		
Locating Providers of Alternative, Update and Transition Training Classes		
<p>Information regarding alternative, update and transition training courses is available through BAR's toll free number, 800-952-5210, or BAR's Internet site at www.smogcheck.ca.gov.</p>		

SECTION IV: APPLICATION PROCEDURES

How To Apply

The license application is a separate form included in this packet. Applications must be complete and accurate, submitted with a \$20 application fee to the Department's Licensing Division. Incomplete applications will be rejected, delaying the review process.

Renewal applications will be accepted by DCA/BAR up to six months before the expiration date of the license.

Current policy allows two test attempts before applicants are required to submit another application.

Applicants who falsify applications or supporting documents may have their licenses denied, revoked or suspended.

The examination fee will be collected separately by the examination administration contractor, Experior Assessments, LLC (Experior). After you pass the examination, the license will be sent to you without additional paperwork or fees.

Special Accommodations Available

If you need special accommodations to take the exam, mark the box on the application indicating that you may need assistance during the written examination. BAR will mail you a Request for Special Accommodations form, which must be completed and returned. You will be required to explain the disability and what special accommodation is needed. A letter from your health-care provider must be included, confirming the disability and justifying the need for special accommodations using the criteria in the request form.

NOTE: English as a second language is NOT a disability, and special accommodations are not granted.

Candidate Eligibility

Once a candidate is determined to be eligible, BAR will notify Experior. Experior will mail an eligibility notice indicating how the candidate may register for and schedule an exam. An examination appointment date is usually available to each candidate within two weeks.

To be eligible to take the examination, the applicant must not have any unpaid citations. Pending enforcement actions will not prohibit you from taking the examination, but may prevent issuance of a license.

In addition, the law requires the Department to check a list of individuals who have not paid their family support obligations. A professional license cannot be issued or renewed for an individual who has been identified by a California District Attorney as not meeting their family support obligations. However, a temporary license (valid for 150 days) may be issued to permit resolution of the family support hold. An existing license can be suspended after notice is given to the licensee.

Application And Examination Fees

A \$20 application fee must accompany your initial or renewal licensing application. Your approved application allows you to take the examination a second time if you fail the first attempt. However, there must be at least 14 days between test attempts. If you fail the second attempt, you must submit another application, and \$20 application fee, to the Licensing Division. See the flowchart on page 24 for details.

A separate \$65 examination fee must be paid to Experior for **each** examination attempt. If you cancel or don't show up without following Experior's guidelines, the examination fee is forfeited. See "Rescheduling" on page 19 for further details.

SECTION V: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMINATION

Listed below are the nine major sections of the examination, as well as the number of examination questions devoted to that section.

Examination Section 1 Operation of the Test Analyzer System (TAS)	4 examination questions
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Examination Section 2 Vehicle Identification	10 examination questions
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Examination Section 3 Visual Inspection	13 examination questions
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Examination Section 4 Functional Testing	8 examination questions
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Examination Section 5 Performing the Emissions Test	8 examination questions
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Examination Section 6 Analyze Emission Test Results	7 examination questions
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Examination Section 7 General Diagnosis of the Causes for Vehicle Failure	26 examination questions
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Examination Section 8 Repair Vehicle	36 examination questions
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Examination Section 9 Complying with Obligations to Consumers	13 examination questions
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Total:	125 Questions
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EXAMINATION PLAN

The following is the examination plan, which is the detailed information used by Subject Matter Experts to write examination questions.

Items identified with a “T” are work **tasks** that must be performed during an emission inspection or during the repair of a failed vehicle. Items identified with a bullet (●) are areas of **knowledge** required to perform the **tasks**.

Note: Several task numbers are omitted. As the Smog Check Program requirements have changed, several tasks have become obsolete and were therefore omitted.

1. OPERATION OF THE TEST ANALYZER SYSTEM (TAS)

TASKS	KNOWLEDGE
T1. Calibrate TAS by implementing internal testing procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Knowledge of operating characteristics of the TAS.● Knowledge of conditions requiring TAS service and the provisions for requesting service.
T2. Select TAS mode of operation in order to perform inspection and maintenance (I&M), emissions, gas and electrical calibration, and leak test and manual mode operation.	
T3. Maintain TAS by changing filter.	
T4. Notify contractor/manufacture as needed for TAS servicing and clearing state and manufacturer level lockouts.	
T5. Enter mechanics access code into TAS in preparation for administering emissions test.	

2. VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION

TASKS	KNOWLEDGE
T7. Identify engine configuration and Smog Check requirements by examining underhood emissions label.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the location of vehicle identification label and vehicle identification number (VIN).
T8. Verify vehicle identification number (VIN) by comparing with registration documents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the symbols, abbreviations, and terminology on vehicle emission labels.
T9. Identify engine and required emission control systems (ECS) by referring to VIN and manuals if emissions label is missing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of reference manuals and other materials that can be used to identify engines and other emission components.
T10. Determine gross vehicle weight of trucks by referring to labels or manuals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of I&M requirements for vehicles of various weights and fuels.
T11. Determine whether a vehicle needs to be inspected considering factors such as type of vehicle, type of fuel used, gross vehicle weight, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to identify size and year of an engine without an emission label.
T12. Refer gray market vehicles to the Referee as needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the requirements for identifying a gray market vehicle.
T13. Identify acceptable replacement engines by determining match with original or optional manufacturer configuration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to determine correct ECS from available information.
T14. Identify engine changes and diesel conversions that must go to the Referee for inspection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the definition (specification) of replacement engines and engine changes.
T15. Identify engine inconsistencies between underhood label and emission control system application manual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of vehicle inconsistencies that must be referred to the Bureau of Automotive Repair.
T16. Determine vehicle certification status (Federal, California, Canadian, none) by referring to underhood label, reference manuals and emission control equipment.	

3. VISUAL INSPECTION

TASKS	KNOWLEDGE
<p>T17. Review emission label to determine ECS and emission devices required on the vehicle.</p> <p>T18. Inspect vehicle for missing, modified, disconnected or defective (MMDD) positive crankcase ventilation (PCV) system.</p> <p>T19. Inspect vehicle for MMDD TAC.</p> <p>T20. Inspect vehicle for MMDD evaporative controls.</p> <p>T21. Inspect vehicle for MMDD CAT.</p> <p>T22. Inspect vehicle for MMDD TWC.</p> <p>T23. Inspect vehicle for MMDD EGR system.</p> <p>T24. Inspect vehicle for MMDD ignition spark controls.</p> <p>T25. Inspect vehicle for MMDD feedback/computer system.</p> <p>T26. Inspect vehicle for MMDD AIS.</p> <p>T27. Identify untestable vehicles by determining that the vehicle's operating condition is unsafe, that testing could damage the vehicle or could influence test results.</p> <p>T28. Inspect vehicle to determine presence and/or condition of retrofit devices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of vehicle operating conditions that would prevent performance of emissions test. • Skill in tracing vacuum and wiring diagrams. • Knowledge of the operating characteristics of emission control components. • Knowledge of the location and appearance of emission control components. • Knowledge of the emission control standards for vehicles required to be fitted with retrofit devices. • Knowledge of the definitions of missing, modified, disconnected, defective, pass, and N/A (not applicable) as applied to emissions tests. • Ability to identify aftermarket parts and modification on vehicles. • Knowledge of emission requirements for aftermarket parts. • Skill in identifying modified emission control system components.

4. FUNCTIONAL TESTING

TASKS	KNOWLEDGE
T30. Inspect and measure fillpipe restrictor to determine compliance with standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to determine whether fillpipe restrictor and flapper meet standards.
T31. Inspect engine maintenance and failure warning lights and flags to determine operating status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of the operations of and conditions indicated by functional failure lights and maintenance and warning lights.
T32. Perform timing check to determine if engine timing is within specifications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skill in verifying correct ignition timing specifications, readings, and procedures.
T33. Test EGR system for proper functioning by applying vacuum, blocking exhaust, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of the operation and functional testing of EGR systems.
T34. If engine failure light is in operation, extract codes and enter into TAS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to extract and interpret codes.

5. PERFORMING THE EMISSIONS TEST

TASKS	KNOWLEDGE
T35. Identify type of ignition system, i.e., conventional, distributorless, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of procedures for testing various ignition types.
T36. Connect test leads to engine wiring in preparation for emissions test.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of the function of emission control systems.
T37. Insert probe into tailpipe when prompted by TAS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of procedures for testing vehicles with dual exhausts.
T38. Operate vehicle until emission system reaches operating temperature as determined by checking radiator hose, engine gauges, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of the effect of engine and catalyst's operating temperature upon emissions test results.
T39. Monitor vehicle gauges and operating conditions of engine during emissions test.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of the conditions requiring emissions test to be aborted.
T40. Perform high RPM test under standard testing conditions to measure exhaust emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of the acceptable vehicle test conditions (transmission in neutral or park, air conditioning off, lights off, etc.).
T41. Perform idle test under standard testing conditions to measure exhaust emissions.	

6. ANALYZE EMISSION TEST RESULTS

TASKS	KNOWLEDGE
T43. Review TAS report to determine whether vehicle passed inspection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of the causes for excess exhaust emissions.
T44. Interpret results of TAS printout to determine cause for test failure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of the operating characteristics of emission control devices. Ability to interpret functional, visual, and tailpipe results.
T45. Inform customer about cost limits and warranty programs in effect relating to emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of diagnostic procedures to obtain optimal repairs under the applicable cost limit. Knowledge of the action to be taken for failed vehicles when all systems appear to be operational.

7. GENERAL DIAGNOSIS OF THE CAUSES FOR VEHICLE FAILURE

TASKS	KNOWLEDGE
T46. Determine cause for high HC emissions by checking electrical, vacuum, or mechanical systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of combustion processes and effects in an internal combustion engine.
T47. Determine cause for high CO emissions by checking fuel components.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of mechanical operations in an internal combustion engine (valve train, crankcase).
T48. Perform mechanical diagnosis of engine by checking for leaking valves, worn piston rings, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of operating characteristics of onboard computers.
T49. Perform propane or other tests to check for vacuum leak.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill in using test equipment to locate emission problems.
T50. Inspect for defective/inoperative emission controls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of engine operating condition or emission control component conditions that produce excessive exhaust emissions.
T51. Determine cause for maintenance warning light and engine malfunction light activation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of the effects of components of emission control system (thermostat, TAC, EFE, O2 sensors, air pump catalyst, etc.).

7. GENERAL DIAGNOSIS OF THE CAUSES FOR VEHICLE FAILURE (cont.)

TASKS	KNOWLEDGE
<p>T52. Determine cause for functional EGR failure.</p> <p>T53. Determine whether the onboard computer system is functional.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to locate source of computer trouble codes. • Ability to use computer trouble codes and specification in understanding the interaction of components and diagnosing emission problems. • Ability to diagnose carburetion problems. • Ability to diagnose fuel injection problems. • Ability to diagnose feedback fuel system problems. • Ability to diagnose spark system (distributor and points) problems. • Ability to diagnose electronic ignition system problems. • Ability to diagnose distributorless ignition system problem.

8. REPAIR VEHICLE

TASKS	KNOWLEDGE
<p>T54. Replace worn or inoperative wiring, hoses, emission control components, etc.</p> <p>T55. Adjust air/fuel mixture, timing, idle speed, etc., to specification in order to reduce emissions.</p> <p>T56. Diagnose/repair internal engine malfunctions.</p> <p>T57. Diagnose/repair PCV systems.</p> <p>T58. Diagnose/repair AIS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of parts exemption/procurement process. • Knowledge of procedures for testing PCV systems, understanding test results, and repairing defects. • Knowledge of procedures for testing AIS, understanding test results, and repairing defects. • Knowledge of procedures for testing fuel evaporative systems, understanding test results, and repairing defects. • Knowledge of procedures for testing EGR systems, understanding test results, and repairing defects.

8. REPAIR VEHICLE (cont.)

TASKS	KNOWLEDGE
T59. Diagnose/repair fuel evaporative system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of procedures for testing computer control systems, understanding test results, and repairing defects.
T60. Diagnose/repair EGR system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of procedures for testing carburetion systems, understanding test results, and repairing defects.
T61. Diagnose/repair computer control systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of procedures for testing fuel injection systems, understanding test results, and repairing defects.
T62. Diagnose/repair carburetor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of procedures for testing the TAC, understanding test results, and repairing defects.
T63. Diagnose/repair fuel injection systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of procedures for testing EFE systems, understanding test results, and repairing defects.
T64. Diagnose/repair ignition systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to perform diagnosis/repair on vehicles failing to obtain proper operating temperature due to missing or inoperative thermostat.
T65. Diagnose/repair TAC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of procedures for testing point/condenser systems, understanding test results, and repairing defects.
T66. Diagnose/repair EFE system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of procedures for testing electronic ignition systems, understanding test results, and repairing defects.
T67. Diagnose/repair vehicles failing to obtain proper operating temperature due to missing or inoperative thermostat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of procedures for testing distributorless ignition systems, understanding test results, and repairing defects.
T69. Perform ignition diagnosis on point/condenser systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skill in using test equipment such as an engine analyzer, analog meter, DVOM, scanner, etc.
T70. Perform ignition diagnosis on electronic systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to use reference materials as an aid in diagnosing problems.
T71. Perform ignition diagnosis on distributorless systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the operating characteristics of thermistors, diodes, and other solid state devices.

8. REPAIR VEHICLE (cont.)

TASKS	KNOWLEDGE
T72. Perform closed loop confirmation test.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skill in interpreting wiring and vacuum diagrams.
T73. Replace missing emission control components.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of procedures for diagnosing and repairing internal engine malfunction which cause emissions failure (valves, rings, head gaskets, etc.).
T74. Repair modified or disconnected emission control components.	

9. COMPLYING WITH OBLIGATIONS TO CONSUMERS

TASKS	KNOWLEDGE
T75. Refer customers to the Referee as needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of legal requirements for making repair estimates, returning parts, and other consumer rights.
T76. Prepare repair estimates and obtain customer approval for work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of standards and regulations (Referee referrals) pertaining to vehicles that fail emissions tests after they have been repaired.
T77. Notify customers of emissions failures and probable causes for failure, and needed repairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of manufacturers' emission warranties.
T78. Determine parts non-availability by checking with suppliers and/or Emission Control Parts Location Center.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of the parts exemption/procurement process.• Skill in communicating reasons for rejection or failure to customers.

NOTES: Items identified with a "T" are work **tasks** that must be performed during an emission inspection or during the repair of a failed vehicle.

Items identified with a bullet (●) are areas of **knowledge** required to perform the **tasks**.

SECTION VI: THE EXAMINATION PROCESS

Examination Administration through Experior

DCA/BAR contracted with Experior Assessments, LLC (Experior) of St. Paul, Minnesota, to administer its computerized examinations. Smog Check Technician candidates may test at any of Experior's California Testing Centers, which are located in Diamond Bar, Sacramento, San Diego, Alameda, Colton, Norwalk, Fresno, San Jose and Encino/Sherman Oaks. Other testing site locations may be added, based on anticipated statewide candidate volume.

All questions and requests for information about examination administration should be directed to:

Experior Assessments
3600 American River Drive, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95864
TDD User: 800-790-3926
Voice: 800-897-2241

Examination Registration

Once DCA/BAR approves your application, it will notify Experior that you may take your examination. Experior will then mail you an Examination Eligibility Notice with detailed instructions on how to register for and schedule your examination.

REGISTRATION BY MAIL

You may mail your examination request and \$65 payment to Experior at the address above, and it will be processed within 48 hours from the time it is received. (Please allow four to eight days for mail delivery.) You may pay by including a MasterCard or Visa number, money order, business check, or cashier's check. PERSONAL CHECKS AND/OR CASH ARE NOT ACCEPTED, AND REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED VIA EXPRESS DELIVERY ARE NOT PROCESSED MORE QUICKLY THAN THOSE RECEIVED BY REGULAR DELIVERY METHODS.

If you register for your examination by mail, you must then call to schedule your examination appointment (see "Scheduling the Examination" below for details).

EXPRESS TELEPHONE REGISTRATION

You may also register for and schedule your exam with one phone call, using a credit card. Please have your Examination Eligibility Notice and your MasterCard or Visa available before you call 800-897-2241 between 5:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. (Pacific time).

Scheduling the Examination

APPOINTMENTS

Once you have paid the \$65 exam registration fee to Experior, you must then schedule an appointment time and place for taking your examination by calling 800-897-2241 between 5:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. (Pacific time). You may take your

examination at any California Experior Testing Center. Please see the maps on page 25; additional maps may be included in your renewal packet, or you may call 800-897-2241 for maps and directions to the additional sites. Appointments are available six days per week at most centers. Contact Experior soon after you receive your Examination Eligibility Notice to get your preferred site and time.

You should arrive at least 10 minutes before your scheduled appointment to allow time for you to sign in, verify your identification, and have your photo taken. As a security measure, this photograph will be printed on your license. **If you refuse to be photographed, you will not be allowed to take the examination.**

RESCHEDULING

If you miss or are late for your scheduled appointment, you will forfeit your examination fee. If you need to reschedule your appointment, you must contact Experior three full working days before your appointment to allow time to refill your appointment slot. You may reschedule your examination by calling Experior at 800-897-2241.

EXAM ELIGIBILITY EXPIRATION

Your examination eligibility expires if you fail to schedule or do not pass an examination within 90 days after being deemed eligible.

Your Examination Eligibility Notice contains important date information. It indicates the date your application was approved. You must take the examination within 90 days of the date specified in the Notice, or you will forfeit your fee and you will be required to reapply to DCA/BAR and submit a new application and \$20 application fee.

SEVERE WEATHER

In the event of severe weather or disaster, Experior may need to cancel scheduled examinations. In this situation, Experior personnel will attempt to contact you via telephone; however, you may confirm your testing schedule by calling Experior registration at 800-897-2241. If a site is closed, examinations will be rescheduled at your earliest convenience, without a rescheduling fee.

Identification Requirements

Upon arriving at the testing center, you must present two forms of identification that bear your signature to be admitted to the examination. One also must have your photo and complete physical description. The name on the identification must be the same as the name used on your application for licensure (including designations such as "Jr." or "III," etc.). The only acceptable forms of photo identification are:

- an unexpired California Driver License (including a temporary license with a photo); or
- an unexpired California Department of Motor Vehicles Identification Card (including a temporary ID card with a photo); or

- a current Military Identification (Active Duty); or
- a valid passport less than five years old.

The use of any other photo identification must be approved by Experior at least 10 days **BEFORE** the examination date. **Applicants without two forms of acceptable identification will not be admitted.**

YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO RE-REGISTER FOR YOUR EXAMINATION AND SUBMIT ANOTHER EXAM REGISTRATION FEE IN ORDER TO SCHEDULE. THIS IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ENSURE EXAMINATION SECURITY.

Examination Security

CALIFORNIA LAW

Section 123 of the California Business and Professions Code states: It is a misdemeanor for any person to engage in any conduct which subverts or attempts to subvert any licensing examination or the administration of an examination, including, but not limited to:

- Conduct which violates the security of the examination materials;
- Removing from the examination room any examination materials without authorization;
- The unauthorized reproduction by any means of any portion of the actual licensing examination;
- Aiding by any means the unauthorized reproduction of any portion of the licensing examination;
- Paying or using professional or paid examination-takers for the purpose of reconstructing any portion of the licensing examination;
- Obtaining examination questions or other examination material, except by specific authorization either before, during, or after an examination; or
- Selling, distributing, buying, receiving, or having unauthorized possession of any portion of a future, current, or previously administered licensing examination.
- Communicating with any other examinee during the administration of a licensing examination.
- Copying answers from another examinee or permitting one's answers to be copied by another examinee.
- Having in one's possession during the administration of the licensing examination any books, equipment, notes, written or printed materials, or data of any kind, other than the examination materials distributed, or otherwise authorized to be in one's possession during the examination.
- Impersonating any examinee or having an impersonator take the licensing examination on one's behalf.

Nothing in this section shall preclude prosecution under authority provided for in any other provision of law. In addition to any other penalties, a person found guilty of violating this section, shall be liable for the actual damages sustained by the agency administering the examination not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and the costs of litigation.

EXPERIOR EXAMINATION SECURITY PROCEDURES

The following security procedures also apply during the examination:

- No cameras, notes, tape recorders, pagers, cellular phones, or watches/timepieces capable of recording information or receiving pages are allowed in the testing room;
- No manuals, books, notebooks, candidate handbooks, scratch paper, dictionaries or notes are allowed in the testing room;
- No food or drink may be taken into the testing room;
- No calculators are permitted; and
- No weapons or valuables, including briefcases, duffel bags, large purses and other miscellaneous items, should be brought to the Testing Center. **Only keys and wallets may be taken into the testing room.** Neither DCA/BAR nor Experior are responsible for items left in the reception area.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW ANY OF THESE SECURITY PROCEDURES MAY RESULT IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF YOUR EXAMINATION. EXPERIOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO VIDEOTAPE ANY EXAMINATION SESSION.

Special Testing Considerations

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

Candidates with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity may be eligible for accommodation in the testing process to assure you that the examination accurately reflects knowledge, skills or abilities. DCA/BAR and Experior are fully compliant with ADA guidelines and will provide reasonable accommodations. Scheduling services are also available via our Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) by calling 800-790-3926.

ACCOMMODATION PROCEDURES

Candidates requiring special testing arrangements due to a physical or mental impairment must submit a request to DCA/BAR for such arrangements at the time of application. Please see page 7 for details.

SECTION VII: THE LICENSING EXAMINATION

Examination Administration

The Smog Check Technician Licensure Examination contains 125 multiple-choice scored and up to 10 pretest questions. Candidates are allowed three hours to complete the exam. The exam will be administered by computer at an ExperiOR testing center. You do not need any computer experience or typing skill to take your exam. You will have a personalized introduction to the testing system and an introductory lesson on the computer before you start your test.

Multiple-Choice Questions

Multiple-choice questions are used throughout the examination. These are questions in which four answers are provided, only one of which is correct.

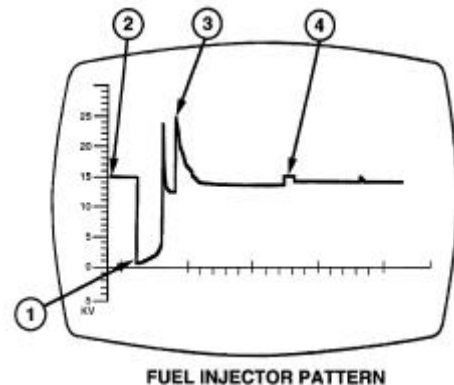
Examination candidates should carefully read the following:

1. For each multiple-choice question, you may select only one answer.
2. There is no penalty for guessing. Scores are based on the number of overall correct answers. **It is to your advantage to answer as many questions as you can.**
3. Some questions will require you to use provided reference materials to find the correct answer.
4. Suggestions for taking multiple-choice examinations:
 - a) Your first answer is often your best answer. Don't spend too much time on any one question.
 - b) If more than one answer seems to be correct, choose the answer that seems correct most often.

SAMPLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

1. While performing a visual inspection, a technician observes there is no EGR amplifier, even though one is shown on the underhood emission label. The EGR valve is connected to ported vacuum. What TAS entry should be made?
 - A. Missing
 - B. Disconnected
 - C. Pass
 - D. Defective
2. Which of the following actions should be taken if a vehicle's timing reads 5 degrees BTDC and the specification for the vehicle is 8 degrees BTDC?
 - A. Adjust timing to specification and perform an after-repairs test.
 - B. Enter "fail" into the TAS for ignition timing because it is out of specification range.
 - C. Enter "pass" into the TAS for ignition timing and 5 degrees BTDC for the timing reading.
 - D. Enter "not applicable" for the ignition timing and specification.

3. What is the primary mission of the Smog Check Referee?
 - A. Perform initial smog inspections.
 - B. Analyze data from TAS analyzers.
 - C. Perform dispute resolutions.
 - D. Perform smog-related repairs.
4. What action should be taken when a 22-month-old car with 25,200 miles on its odometer fails an emissions inspection because of a failed emission component?
 - A. Send the vehicle to a Referee as a pattern failure.
 - B. Have the customer go to a dealer for the repair.
 - C. Retest and issue a certification and exemption.
 - D. Issue a certificate of non-compliance.
5. If a vehicle equipped with a contact point ignition system fails the ignition timing specification, what step should be performed **FIRST**?
 - A. Check coil saturation.
 - B. Check the dwell angle.
 - C. Check condenser output.
 - D. Adjust the timing to manufacturer's specifications.
6. Which of the following statements describes the difference between a three-wire oxygen sensor and a single-wire oxygen sensor?
 - A. A three-wire is more accurate.
 - B. A single-wire is more durable.
 - C. A single-wire sends information slower.
 - D. A three-wire allows closed-loop operation
7. Use the following exhibit to answer this question.



At what point in this scope pattern would the fuel injector be open?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

(Correct answers to these questions can be found at the end of Section IX.)

SECTION VIII: AFTER THE EXAMINATION IS OVER

Examination Results

At the end of your test, you will receive a printed Score Report. The report indicates your overall score and grade, including the number of questions answered correctly, and whether you passed or failed.

To pass the examination, you must correctly answer a predetermined minimum number of questions for the entire examination. Your total score, the minimum passing score, and the scores for each of the sections of the examination will be identified on each candidate's score report. The scores for each of the sections are provided to give you more details about your performance on the examination. You may refer to the examination plan (in Section V of this handbook), for the specific knowledge, skills and abilities needed for each section. Only correctly answered questions count toward your examination score.

A license will be issued and mailed to candidates who pass. The results of a passing examination will be in the Vehicle Inspection Database within five working days of the examination date. It should take about 10 days to receive your license in the mail.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF EXAMINATION RESULTS

Examination results are the property of the person who took the examination, and will not be released to anyone else without the written permission of the candidate.

Retaking an Examination

Once you have received your Examination Eligibility Notice, you will be allowed two attempts to pass the examination. If you do not pass your first examination, call 800-897-2241 to schedule a second examination appointment. BAR requires 14 days between examination attempts.

If you do not pass the examination in two attempts, you must submit a new application, with a \$20.00 application fee, to:

Department of Consumer Affairs
Bureau of Automotive Repair
Division of Licensing
P.O. Box 989001
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9001

If you wish to send your application and fees by overnight mail, send to:

Department of Consumer Affairs
Bureau of Automotive Repair
Division of Licensing
400 "R" Street, Suite 3080
Sacramento, CA 95814-6200.

You must wait at least 14 days between examination attempts. You will be charged a fee of \$65 each time you take the examination.

See the flowchart on page 24 for details.

Comments on Examination Contents

Any candidate who wishes to comment on examination content is encouraged to do so. Put your comments in writing and send to BAR. Comment sheets are also available from the Proctor at the testing location. You must include the following information:

1. Your name, Smog Check Technician license number and complete mailing address.
2. The date and location of the examination.
3. A detailed description of the problem or concern.

Please mail your comments to:

Bureau of Automotive Repair
Standards and Training Branch
10240 Systems Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95827

SECTION IX: OBTAINING A LICENSE

After passing the examination, your record is sent back to DCA/BAR to review for enforcement actions, as well as family support actions before a license may be issued. Once your record is found to be clear, a license will be mailed to you. If the record is clear, your license should be mailed to you within 10 days of passing the examination. **No additional fees are collected before the license is issued.**

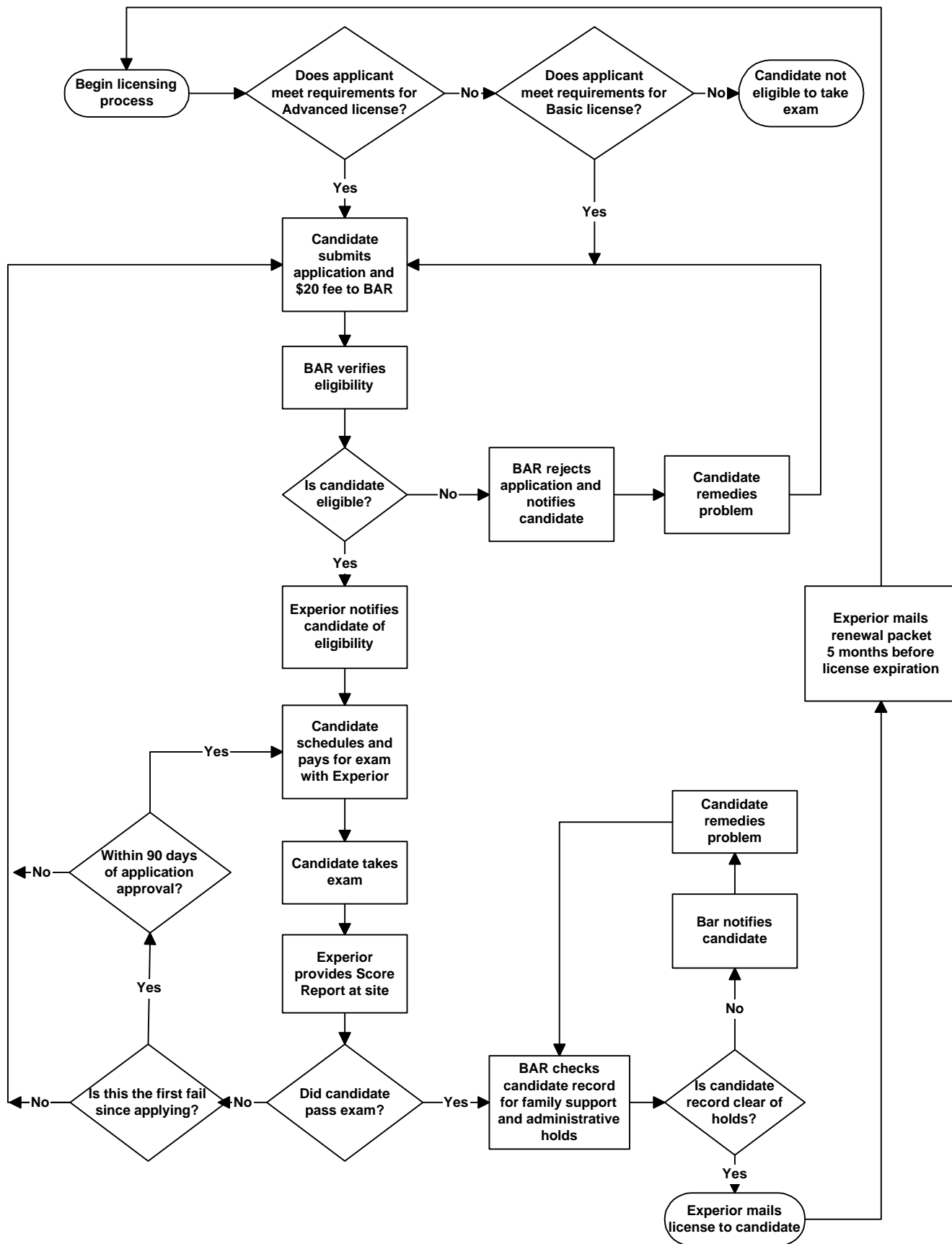
A person may not perform the duties of a licensed technician without a current license. Technicians must pass an examination every other year to remain licensed. The license expiration dates are adjusted so that the licenses expire in the month of the technician's birthday. Therefore, licenses are valid for 13 to 24 months, depending upon the technician's birth month and month in which the technician passes the licensing examination. This process is fully explained in California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 3340.29 (e).

Before we can issue a technician's license to you, we must have information required by Sections 44014 and 44031.5 of the Health and Safety Code. The Chief of the bureau is responsible for maintaining the information you provide. The information may be transferred to other government agencies if the agencies need it to perform their legal duties. You have a right to review the records maintained on you by this bureau, unless the records are identified as confidential information and exempted in Section 1798.3 of the Information Practices Act.

Disclosure of your Social Security number is mandatory. Section 30 of the Business and Professions Code and Pub. L. 94-455 [42 w. 405(c)(2)(C)] authorizes collection of your Social Security number. Your Social Security number will be used exclusively for tax enforcement purposes and for purposes of compliance with any judgment or order for family support in accordance with section 11350.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. If you fail to provide your Social Security number, you will be reported to the Franchise Tax Board which may assess a \$100 penalty against you.

Answers to sample examination questions.
1. A; 2. C; 3. C; 4. B; 5. B; 6. D; 7.A.

LICENSING FLOWCHART



CALIFORNIA TESTING CENTERS

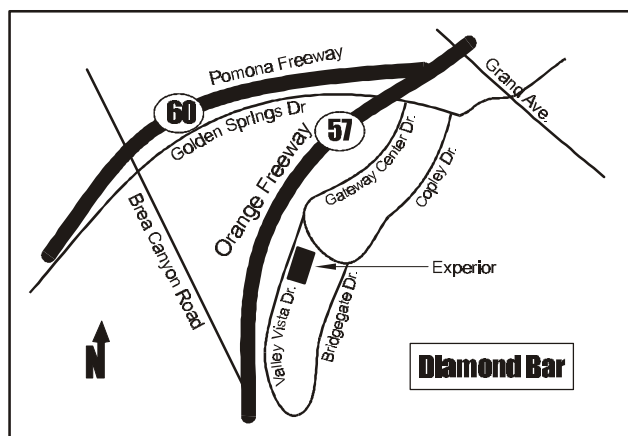
Additional testing centers are located in Colton, Norwalk, Fresno, San Jose and Encino/Sherman Oaks. Once you receive eligibility notification, call 800-897-2241 for maps and directions to these additional locations. If you are unfamiliar with the area, please contact the testing center during testing hours for directions. Please direct registration, scheduling and any other questions to Experior Central Registration at 800-897-2241.

MAPS ARE NOT DRAWN TO SCALE.

Diamond Bar Center

1370 Valley Vista Drive, Suite 104
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Phone: 909-396-1185

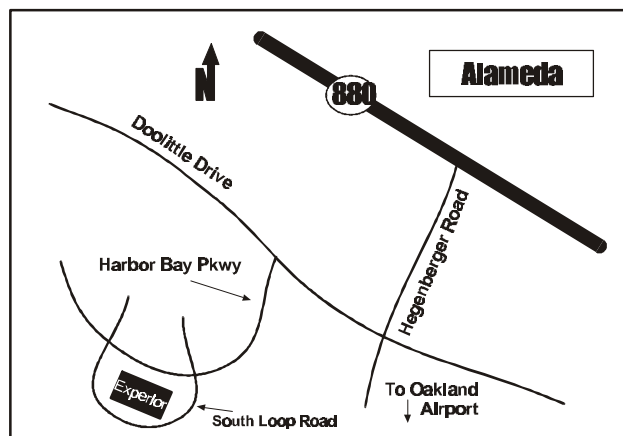
From Hwy 60 (Pomona Freeway) east, take the Brea Canyon Road exit. Head east at freeway exit; cross over Brea Canyon Road. Continue east on Golden Springs Dr. to Gateway Center Dr.; turn right. Turn right again on Valley Vista Dr. **From Hwy 57 (Orange Freeway)/60 east**, take the Grand Ave. exit south. Go west on Golden Springs Dr. Turn left at Gateway Center Dr., and right on Valley Vista Dr. The Experior Testing Center is on your left, **in the University of Phoenix building**. Parking is available around the building.



Alameda Center

1420 Harbor Bay Parkway, Suite 130
Alameda, CA 94502
Phone: 510-864-2664

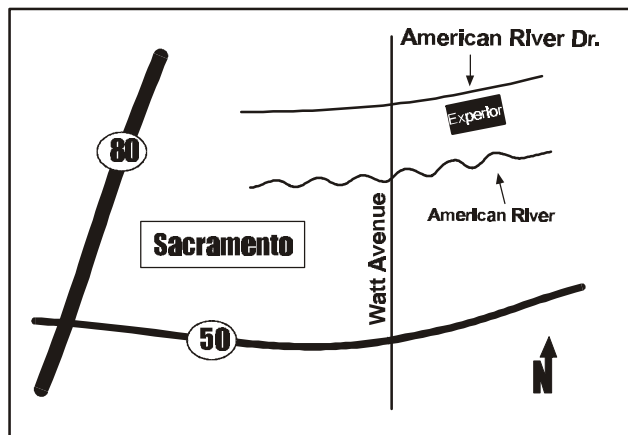
From Interstate 880, exit on Hegenberger Road west toward the Oakland airport. Turn right on Doolittle Drive. At the second stop light, turn left onto Harbor Bay Parkway (note sign indicating Harbor Bay Business Park). Drive approximately one mile and turn left on South Loop Road, following it around until you see **Building 1420**. Parking is available around the building.



Sacramento Center

3600 American River Drive, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95864
Phone: 916-971-3672

From Highway 50, take the Watt Avenue exit north. Proceed ½ mile to American River Drive; turn right. The Experior Testing Center will be in the **second building on the right-hand side**. Parking is available at the front of the building.



San Diego Center

1450 Frazee Road, Suite 410
San Diego, CA 92108
Phone: 619-574-1840

From Highway 163, take the Friars Road exit east to Frazee Road. Head north on Frazee Road. The Experior Testing Center is in the building on your left. Parking is available all around the building.

